

## Cobras clobber tournament foes

The NFWB Cobras produced their own fireworks on the recent holiday weekend in winning the 14-year-old division of the NFWB Fourth of July tournament, defeating five opponents by a combined score of 64-2.

In the first game of pool play, the Cobras overpowered the Milan Tigers, 21-0. Andy Wingert, who pitched the first three innings and was the winner, and reliever Matt Petry combined for the team's fourth straight shutout.

Ten Cobras contributed at least one hit each for a balanced offensive

### BASEBALL

attack. Dan Lantz, Nell Stornberg, Evan Rodrigues, Ben Darga, Wingert and Petry had two hits apiece.

Kevin Zerbo hit his seventh home run of the season in the first inning and put the Cobras on the right course to have a successful tournament.

NFWB next defeated the Grand Rapids Devil Rays, 2-1. Darga threw six shutout innings before retiring from the mound. He also produced the big

hit of the game — a two-run single in the third inning.

The team made several big defensive plays, the biggest occurring in the second inning. With a runner on third and one out, the Devil Rays attempted to bunt the runner home. Darga fielded the ball and threw to Zerbo, who blocked the plate.

The runner retreated to third when Zerbo threw a strike to third baseman Lantz, who slapped the tag on him. Lantz then fired a bullet to second

base where Rodriguez made a putout on the runner attempting to take an extra base.

In his first pitching start of the season, Doug Pickens threw a no-hitter as the Cobras beat Livonia Travel in the third game of pool play, 9-0.

Bryan Smith and Pickens, who struck out six batters, paced the offense with two hits apiece.

NFWB crushed Troy in the semifinal game, 24-0. The Cobras exploded in the first inning for 20 runs, an offensive

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### FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

#### SoccerZone signup

SoccerZone in Novi is accepting walk-in and mail-in registrations for its fifth season of youth hockey through Wednesday, July 21. The season starts Saturday, July 31, and continues through Sunday, Oct. 10.

The fee for mid-age teams and older is \$940. For bantam and younger teams, the fee is \$805. For individuals who want to be placed on a team, the fee is \$85 for returning players and \$95 for new players. Referee fees are included. For more information call SoccerZone at (248) 374-0500.

#### Masters competition

The Second Annual Oakland County Master Games for athletes 50 years of age and up is slated for July 28-29 at Royal Oak Kimball High School.

Events include bounce volleyball, tennis, swimming, race walking, basketball and track and field. New events this year are bocce and putting competitions. Projects on display for judging include baked goods plus arts and crafts. A bridge tournament is also scheduled.

The fee is \$16 after July 12 and includes lunch and T-shirt. The entry deadline is Friday, July 23. To register call (248) 856-7696.

#### 3-on-3 hoop tourney

The Novi-based Sports Academy will conduct a 3-on-3 basketball tournament Saturday, July 31, at the Novi Community Parks basketball courts (northeast corner of Eight Mile and Napier roads).

The entry fee is \$125 per team. Players must be 17 years of age or older. Four players are allowed per team, and the tournament format is double elimination.

Registrations must be received by July 29; the entry fee is due July 31. Specific registration information can be obtained by calling the Sports Academy at (248) 360-0800, ext. 112.

#### Register for fall ball

The Sports Academy will conduct its annual fall baseball and softball leagues Aug. 14 to Oct. 3. Registration ends Thursday, July 15.

The age divisions are 11-12, 13-14 and high school. Schedules and rosters are sent to every professional and college team in Michigan.

The cost per team is \$1,400 for baseball, \$1,100 for softball. The individual fees are \$200 for baseball, \$150 for softball.

For more information or to register, call the Sports Academy in Novi at (248) 360-0800, ext. 105.

#### OCC wants athletes

The Oakland Community College men's and women's cross country teams, the women's volleyball team and the women's tennis team are looking for athletes to compete in the 1999-2000 school year.

All athletes must be full time students at OCC during the fall semester. OCC students interested in competing should call either cross country coach Bernie Little at (248) 360-3155, volleyball coach Mike Lindstrom at (248) 363-1904 or tennis coach Kim Jackson at (248) 360-3150.

#### Girls running camp

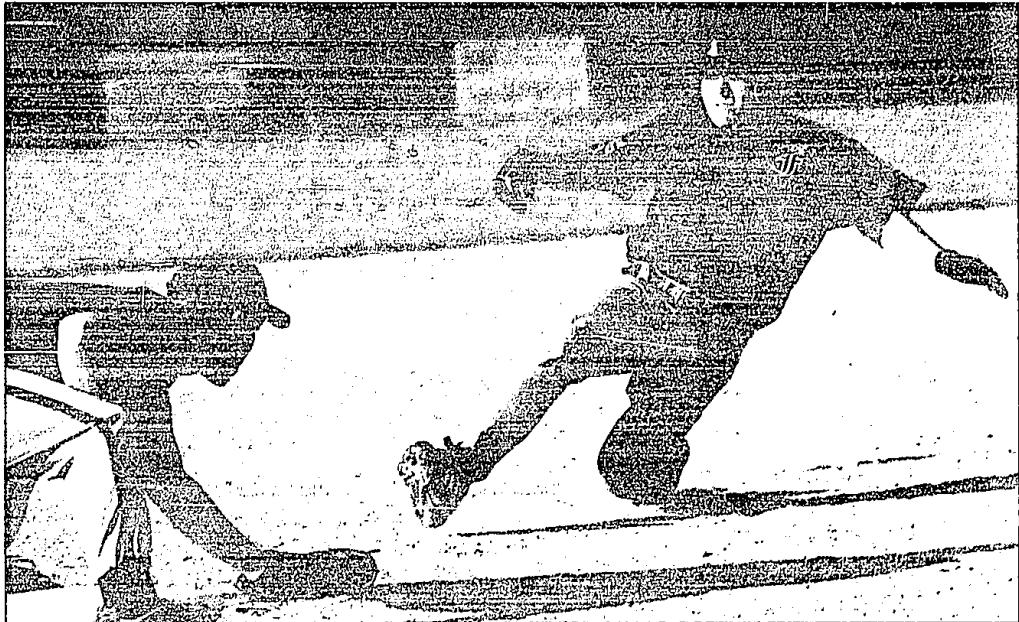
Several openings remain for the Brighton Frontier Girls Running Camp. The first session will be Aug. 1-7 and the second Aug. 8-14 at the Brighton Recreation Area.

There will be two workouts per day, Monday through Friday; an individual race (two miles) on Saturday, guest speakers, a 3-to-1 athlete to coach/counselor ratio and two movie-and-pizza nights. To register call camp director Gary Barvais at (248) 476-2836.

#### CC guard in Classic

Headford Catholic Central guard Nick Moore, a two-time All-Observer basketball player, will play for Team Michigan in the Wendy's Classic July 20-21 at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio.

The Wendy's Classic features all-star teams from Michigan, Ohio, Illinois and Indiana. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster. Fox Sports Detroit will televise the game noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, July 24.



Summer baseball: Farmington Post 346's Brad Baker gets ready to slide into third base in the second inning Thursday, but Walled Lake Renegades fielder Dennis Kubit was waiting to make the putout. Post 346 rallied from a 5-1 deficit but lost the game, 5-4.



Making the play: Post 346 third baseman Lou Hadley digs the baseball out of his glove after catching a line drive Thursday.

## Post 346 falls short in Legion comeback

By DAN O'MEARA  
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### BASEBALL

Walled Lake's run production was down Thursday but was still sufficient to defeat host Farmington Post 346 in an American Legion baseball game.

The Renegades, who average double figures in runs scored, had just enough support to make starting pitcher Eric McDonald a winner in the team's 6-4 victory.

"We're playing well, but we've struggled a little bit at the plate," Walled Lake coach Frank Barazus said, adding his team's seven strikeouts was a season high and well above its two-per-game average. "We have a pretty good hitting team."

"I'm very confident when our defense is on the field. And, with the way Eric was pitching, we were certainly going to challenge them at the plate."

McDonald, who will be a senior at Walled Lake Western, had his best outing in four starts for the Renegades, allowing only two hits over six innings. "That's the first real good game he's

had since the high school season," Barazus said. "He pitched a real good game for us."

McDonald walked six — three of which resulted in Farmington runs — and hit two batters. The Renegades (9-6) also committed four errors; two allowed runners to reach base.

On the opposite side of the field, Farmington (5-7), which rallied to win three of four tournament games July 1-4 in Jackson, found the well was dry this time.

Walled Lake broke a 1-1 tie with four runs off losing pitcher Chris Deary in the fifth inning and held on to win as Post 346 rallied to score a run in the bottom of the fifth and two more in the sixth.

"We gave them everything we could give them, and it wasn't enough," Post 346 coach Wally Christensen said. "Our problem is having to come from

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## Major endurance test awaits avid runner

If you're not up to running a marathon in the fall, which includes the 32nd International Marathon through Detroit and Windsor (Oct. 17), I've got some other less taxing alternatives for the rest of the summer.

As I head for my fifth consecutive Great Lakes Relay, a 270-mile, three-day event across northern Michigan, it's about the halfway mark of the running campaign.

Thus far, I'm slightly off pace as far as total mileage accumulated in 1998 (1,835 total miles) as opposed to 1999.

My times are also off from a year ago, but of course I'm a year older. To make up for lack of speed, I've started weekly sessions at the Livonia Stevenson High track doing intervals week-out.

But nonetheless, the running season for yours truly has been gratifying and fun.

It started in mid-March with the St. Patrick's Corktown 4-miler, and it's been a steady stream of races since — Old Kent Riverbank, a 25-kilometer

(15.5 miles), three half-marathons (Flushing, West Bloomfield, National City Dexter-to-Ann Arbor); a 20K (Domino's in Ann Arbor); two 10Ks (Plymouth YMCA and Whitmore Lake); a 5-miler (Grosse Ile), an 8K (Trenton Treadmill); and yesterday's 4-mile Farmington Founders Festival.

The plan is to build up again for either Detroit or Chicago marathon, so the long run (10-plus miles) will be starting again soon.

And God willing, if I recover quickly enough from the 27 to 30 miles of hill training this weekend at the Great Lakes, it's time to start registering for

some other events to fill out my summer slate.

Here are a few suggestions leading up to the Crim Festival of Races Saturday, Aug. 28, in Downtown Flint.

• Thursday, July 22 — Mid-Summer's Night 5K Run, 6:30 p.m. from the Novi Town Center, call 248-563-7303, Ext. 2203.

• Saturday, July 31 — Heart of the Hills 10K and 5K, 8 a.m. with the start at Bloomfield Hills Andover (challenging, twisting, hilly course in beautiful surroundings), call (248) 364-1177.

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